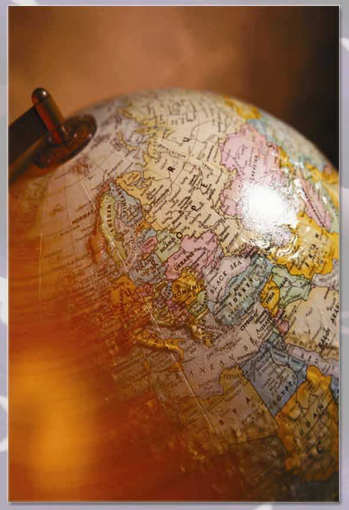
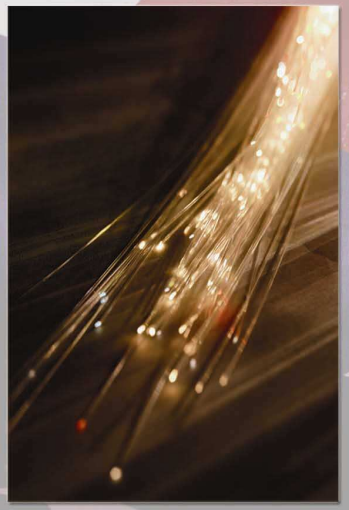
The President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee (NSTAC)

Briefing Before the Federal Communications Commission Independent Panel on Hurricane Katrina

April 18, 2006





What is the NSTAC?

The President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee (NSTAC) was created by Executive Order 12382 in 1982, and it is:

- Chartered to provide critical industry–based advice to the President on national security and emergency preparedness (NS/EP) telecommunications and information systems matters

- Composed of up to 30 chief executives appointed by the President — members include representatives from leading telecommunications, computer hardware, software and security services, banking, and aerospace companies. NSTAC members represent 95% of telecommunications services

- A successful model of industry–Government collaboration

NSTAC Subordinate Groups

The NSTAC has several task forces for the NSTAC XXIX cycle:

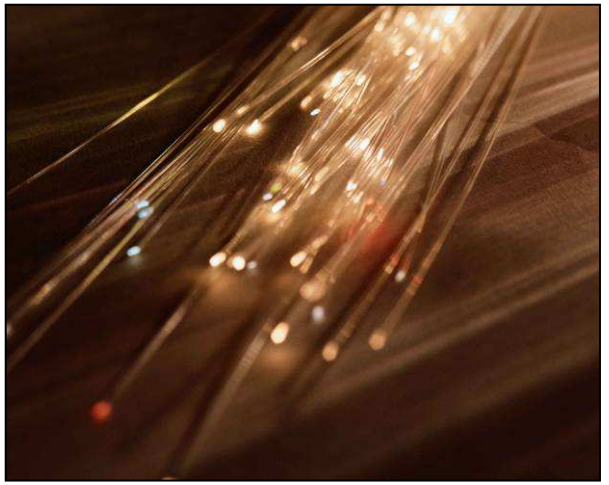
- Next Generation Networks (NGN) Task Force (NGNTF)
- National Coordinating Center for Telecommunications (NCC) Task Force (NCCTF)
- Telecommunications Electric Power Interdependency Task Force (TEPITF)
- Research and Development Task Force (RDTF)
- Legislative and Regulatory Task Force (LRTF)
- NSTAC Outreach Task Force (NOTF)
- Emergency Communications and Interoperability Task Force (ECITF)

NGNTF

The NGNTF is tasked to:

- Agree upon a high-level description of the expected network environment or ecosystem of the NGN and its interdependencies
- Examine NS/EP user requirements, end-to-end services, and the interfaces and accountability among network participants and network layers
- Examine relevant user scenarios and expected cyber threats

The NGNTF Status:



- Final Report is approved and being submitted to the White House
- Discussing potential areas of follow-on work, including the international implications of the NGN and identity management issues
- Establish NGN Incident Response capabilities through a Joint Coordination Center incorporating the Communications and Information Technology sectors

NCCTF

The NCCTF is tasked to:

- Study the long-term direction of the NCC, including:
  - Where should the NCC be in one year, three years, and five years
  - How the NCC should continue to partner with Government
  - How the NCC should be structured
  - How the new Department of Homeland Security Sector Coordinating Council approach might affect the NCC

The NCCTF Status:

- Finalizing its task force report, including final recommendations on:
  - Federal Emergency Communications Coordinator (FECC)/ESF#2/JFO
  - Regional coordination among carriers

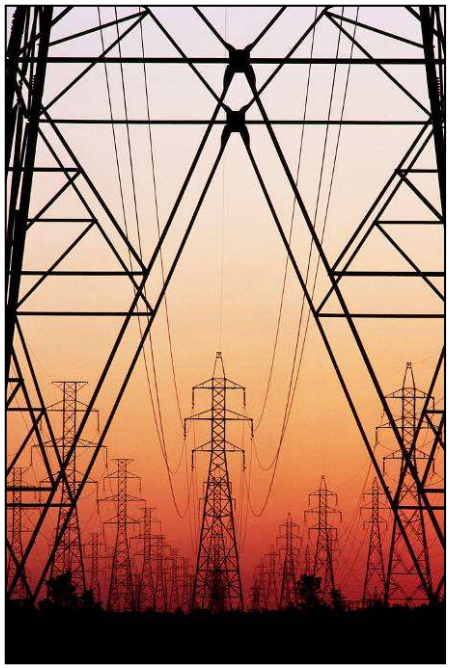
TEPITF

The TEPITF is tasked to:

- Determine the NS/EP concerns associated with the interdependency of the telecommunications and electric power sectors, focusing on the operational issues between the two sectors and how these interdependencies will affect the future of the telecommunications network

The TEPITF status:

- "Emergency Responder" Recognition
- Finalizing issues to be included in the long-term report including extended outages and the loss of core infrastructure and science and technology solutions
- Drafting a working definition for the concept of a "long-term outage" and determining the implications for the telecommunications and electric power sectors if such an outage were to occur



LRTF

The LRTF is tasked to:

- Monitor and analyze legislative and regulatory activities affecting the NS/EP community
- Investigate the NS/EP communications issues highlighted in the recent Government reports on Hurricane Katrina response

The LRTF has recommended:

- **"Emergency Responder" Recognition**
  - NRP/ESF
  - Stafford Act
- **Access to Disaster Sites**

ECITF

The ECITF is tasked to:

- To provide recommendations to the President on short-term interoperability solutions for responders in advance of the 2006 hurricane season, and mid- to long-term recommendations addressing how a complete suite of communications technologies should be integrated into the Federal Government's emergency communications planning, and how they can more effectively support NS/EP activities

The ECITF has recommended:

- Emergency Manager Contact Information
- Deployable Communications Capability
- Utilize existing programs – GETS, WPS, TSP
- FCC/NTIA – Federal Incident Response frequencies for Non Federal entities

NSTAC Post-Katrina Actions

Following Hurricane Katrina, the NSTAC has:

- Held a special Principals' Meeting, which resulted in:
  - Recommendations on:
    - Access/Credentialing
    - Designation of communications Infrastructure personnel as Emergency Responders (Private Sector)
    - Near-term recommendations to improve response
    - Regional Coordination
  - Framework for long-term solutions for assured communications for national responders
- Worked with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on advancing NRP ESF-2
  - NCC as key hub of industry and industry-Government coordination
- Working with DHS/National Communications System on:
  - National Emergency Communications Strategy – potentially a key focus for the future